

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JAMES J. BLANCHARD, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DAVID F. HALES, Director

Regional Headquarters
1990 U.S.-41 South
Marquette, Michigan 49855

December 7, 1989

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

THOMAS J. ANDERSON
MARLENE J. FLUHARTY
KERRY KAMMER
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DAVID D. OLSON
RAYMOND POUPORE

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



488032

Mr. Ross E. Powers, Chief
Response Section I, Emergency Response Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
9311 Groh Road, Room 216
Grosse Ile, MI 48138-1697

Dear Mr. Powers:

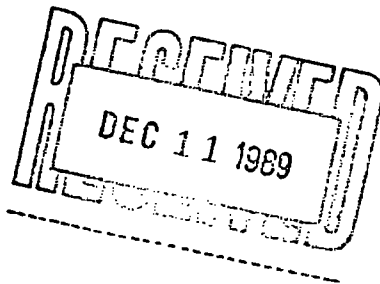
Following receipt of your November 24, 1989 letter, I requested that staff prepare a briefing memorandum on the Channing Railroad Yard. Attached is a copy of that briefing memorandum for your information. I trust that this responds adequately to the questions in your letter.

If you have additional questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

David M. Dennis
Assistant Deputy Director
906-228-6561

Enclosure



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

December 5, 1989

Briefing Memo

Channing RR Yard
Dickinson Co.

Facility Background

This rail site was owned by the now bankrupt Milwaukee Road for 91 yrs. before being acquired by MDOT (Freight Division, Urban and Public Transportation) in 1983. The site was immediately leased to the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad Co. who has been operating the facility ever since.

History of DNR Involvement

In December of 88 a fire broke out and burned the RR roundhouse in Channing to the ground. DNR was not informed of this incident.

A number of barrels and other containers remained after the fire. The contents of these containers were not readily identifiable as the the labels had been burnt off.

ERD was first made aware of this site in July of 89 by two telephone inquiries. In early August, a MDOT official briefed E. Olsen on the railroad yard fire and possible environmental problems.

A joint onsite inspection was conducted August 23. Participants included representatives of MDOT (property owner), E & LS RR (operator) and MDNR-ERD. Extensive areas of fuel contaminated soil were observed. Remnants of an abandoned refueling station were present. A old (50+ years) buried oil/water separator system is also present. The design of this system is unknown but it appeared extensive and of questionable integrity. A large amount of petroleum contaminated liquid remains in this system.

ERD alerted MDPH staff to the possibility of groundwater contamination in this vicinity. MDPH responded by sampling six (6) private wells near the RR yard. These samples underwent extensive analysis and no chemical compounds of concern were detected.

The site has been added to the Proposed Act 307 Priority Lists for FY91.

Current Status

MDNR-ERD has been awaiting a workplan for the investigation and cleanup of this site since August. ERD staff were told at the August site meeting that E & LS RR was developing such a workplan (they retained Bittner Engineering as their environmental consultant). This workplan was to be submitted to MDOT who would in turn submit it to MDNR. To date no such plan has been presented to MDNR.

I contacted Ms. Susan Brook, Administrator, Freight Div., UPTRAN, MDOT today to ascertain the status of environmental matters at the Channing RR yard. She referred me to Ms. Judy Ruskowski of their Geotechnical Services Unit who is MDOT's "point" contact person. Ms. Ruskowski explained that things were pretty much at a stalemate as far as cleanup responsibility was concerned.

Channing RR Yard
Dickinson, Co.

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Briefing Memo
December 5, 1989

Although the E & LS RR is implementing some measures to safeguard against future spills, they have shown a reluctance to fully address the various environmental concerns which exist. She will be discussing these matters further with the RR but is awaiting some direction from MDNR.

Recommendations

I will be discussing the responsible party issues of this site with the ERD Enforcement Section tomorrow. Based on this discussion I will draft a "demand" letter for the Enforcement Section's review. This letter will be sent out under the ERD chief's signature and will specify a timetable for the actions to be undertaken. The letter will be forwarded to Freight Div., UPTRAN, MDOT and may be sent to the E & LS RR as well.

Response to EPA letter of November 24, 1989

It is the judgement of Region I ERD staff that this site does NOT currently pose an an imminent danger to public health. However, should the Emergency Response Branch of EPA be interested in performing their own evaluation of this site, I do not be discourage their efforts.

Steve Harrington, Region I
ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE DIVISION

12-5-89

*Have.
Attached is a good summary
of the environmental problems
which exist at the site.
Steve*



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5

5HK

Andrew Tscharpa

TO	CODE	LOCATION	FROM
	5RA	JCK-14	OFFICE OF REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
	5PA	JCK-14	OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
	5PL	JCK-16	REGION V LIBRARY
	5CL	TUB-10	OFFICE OF GREAT LAKES NATIONAL PROGRAMS
	5C	TUB-3	OFFICE OF REGIONAL COUNSEL
	5CA	TUB-1	AIR/WATER/TOXICS & GENERAL LAW BRANCH
	5CS	TUB-3	SOLID WASTE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE BRANCH
	5M	JCK-14	PLANNING & MANAGEMENT DIVISION
	5MA	JCK-14	PLANNING & BUDGETING BRANCH
	5ME	JCK-14	ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW BRANCH
	5MF	JCK-14	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BRANCH
			ROUTE INCLUDES MAIL CODES MFT-MFA-MFS
	5MFG	JCK-14	GRANTS MANAGEMENT SECTION
	5MS	TUB-4	MANAGEMENT SERVICES BRANCH
			ROUTE INCLUDES MAIL CODES MSA-MSO
	5MSC	TUB-4	CONTRACTS & PROCUREMENT SECTION
	5MSH	536-1	OFFICE SERVICES UNIT-WAREHOUSE STAFF
	5MSG	JCK-11	GRAPHIC ARTS STAFF
	5MI	JCK-16	INFORMATION MANAGEMENT BRANCH
	5MP	JCK-16	PERSONNEL BRANCH
	5A	JCK-26	AIR & RADIATION DIVISION
	5AR	JCK-26	AIR & RADIATION BRANCH
	5AC	JCK-26	AIR COMPLIANCE BRANCH
		TUB-8	WATER DIVISION
	5	TUB-8	OFFICE OF GROUND WATER
	5WO	TUB-8	WATER QUALITY BRANCH
	5WOC	TUB-8	COMPLIANCE SECTION
	5WOP	TUB-8	PERMIT SECTION
	5WOG	TUB-8	PLANNING & STANDARDS SECTION
	5WF	TUB-8	MUNICIPAL FACILITIES BRANCH
	5WFP	TUB-8	ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SECTION
	5WFM	TUB-2	STATE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SECTION
	5WFT	TUB-9	TECHNICAL SUPPORT SECTION
	5WD	TUB-9	SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH
	5H	JCK-12	WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION
	5HS	JCK-11	OFFICE OF SUPERFUND
	5HSM	JCK-12	SUPERFUND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT BRANCH
	5HS	JCK-16	OFFICE OF CEPP
	5HSGT	MICHIGAN	EMERGENCY RESPONSE BRANCH-RESPONSE SECTION I
X	5HR	JCK-13	OFFICE OF RCRA
	5S	536-10	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES DIVISION
	5SCL	536-10	CENTRAL REGIONAL LABORATORY
	5SEDO	OHIO	EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE
	5SCDO	536-9	CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE
	5SMQA	536-10	MONITORING & QUALITY ASSURANCE BRANCH
	5SPT	536-7	PESTICIDES & TOXIC SUBSTANCES BRANCH
	5I	JCK-4	OFFICE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS
	5OIGA	10 W-4	OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL/AUDITS
	5OIGI	10 W-4	OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL/INVESTIGATIONS
		INFO	TELECON
			COMMENT
			ACTION

cc'd Bob Bowden

EMERGENCY & ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE BRANCH
CHIEF - ROBERT J. BOWDEN (6-6236)

Secretary - Ulandirus Scott (6-3616)

EMERGENCY SUPPORT SECTION

CHIEF - PAMELA J. SCHAFER (3-8200)

Secretary - LaRetha Taylor (6-3616)

Clerk-Typist - John Maritote (3-9303)

(EPA) Ray Urchel (6-6246)

(EPA) Arlene Lil (3-1907)

(DPO) Duane Heaton (3-1788)

(EPS) Ruth Mancos (3-3193)

(SPCC) Isalee Coleman (6-7597)

(EPS) Robert Buckle (313)675-3622

(EPA) Wanda Petish (313)675-3425

(EPA) Kathleen Power (313)675-3679

RESPONSE SECTION II

CHIEF - JACK BARNETTE (3-2102)

Secretary - Vacant (3-2080)

Clerk-Typist - Ann Ballard (3-3191)

OSC - William Simes (6-3337)

OSC - Kenneth Theisen (6-1959)

OSC - Steven Faran (3-9351)

OSC - Jacqueline vanBosse (3-2071)

OSC - Vernetta Simon (6-3601)

OSC - Leonard Zintak (6-4246)

OSC - Richard Rupert (6-1960)

OSC - Jose Cisneros (3-1909)

OSC - Walter Nied (6-4466)

OSC - Stavros Emmanouil (6-1768)

RESPONSE SECTION I

CHIEF - ROSS POWERS (313)675-3178

Secretary - Vacant

Clerk-Typist - Rozanne Freitas (675-3623)

Student Aide - Tracy Smith (675-3624)

Student Aide - Leslie Powell (675-3678)

OSC - Joseph Fredle (8-942-7260)

OSC - Edward Burk (675-3146)

OSC - Robert Bowlus (675-3788)

OSC - Ralph Dollhofer (675-3680)

OSC - Loretta Kroetsch (675-3179)

OSC - Partan C. (675-3177)

Comment: / Concl: Action:

File: FYI: Note & Return:

Remarks:

cc'd: Andrew Tscharpa

I will follow up on other site of